

***Chrysoteuchia culmella* (L.) (Lep.: Pyralidae) captured in September**

I was most surprised indeed to attract a single male of the very common grass moth *Chrysoteuchia culmella* to an m.v. light on 10 September 2000, whilst trapping in the grounds of Hillmead School in Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire.

I normally associate this moth with earlier in the year and a quick check in Barry Goater's 1986 book *British Pyralid Moths* (Harley) confirmed my own experience – "Single-brooded; flies in June and July". An identical flight period is given by Palm (1986. *Nordeuropas Pyralider*. Bøger/Apollo) though the range of months is longer, from June to August, in Błęzyński (1965. *Microlepidoptera Palaearctica: Crambinae*. Fromme). A conversation with Barry Goater on 14 September revealed that he was not aware of any other records of *C. culmella* so late in the year, and it thus appears that this may be the first autumn record of the species for Britain. The moth was fresh on arrival, though it has since lost its forewing cilia in the pill box!

Goater (*op. cit.*) suggests that since the moth is reported at lightships well out to sea it is evidently sometimes migratory; this could perhaps account for the present record from Bishops Stortford? There had been a number of reports of a variety of immigrant moth species in the weeks prior to this record, although the only other potential immigrant at my lights on the night in question was a single *Plutella xylostella* (L.). In June and July *C. culmella* is usually abundant, and it is perhaps surprising that only one arrived at the sheet if it represented a genuine second generation?

The record presents something of a problem for me as Hertfordshire Recorder. The sheet was laid out on the school playing field at Hillmead School, firmly in Hertfordshire, but the moth was watched flying in from under the trees of Birchanger Wood, the edge of which is defined by a fence exactly 2.7 metres from the light bulb – and beyond which is North Essex, from where records are the province of my good friends Brian Goodey and Maitland Emmet! – COLIN W. PLANT, 14 West Road, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3QP. (E-mail: Colinwplant@compuserve.com).

***Epiphyas postvittana* (Walker) (Lep.: Tortricidae) assembling on a cool night in May**

Thursday 25 May 2000, was a fairly cool evening after a day of sunny intervals. At 21.30 hours I had just been examining a netted flowerpot of mixed larvae when I noticed a small moth flying around outside of the netting. This was soon to be joined by a second, then a third and on closer inspection they turned out to be male *E. postvittana* assembling to a freshly emerged female. I had no sooner boxed them when others began to arrive and by 22.00 hours I had a total of thirty-five specimens.

Despite this species being rather a pest in my garden, I was astonished to see so many assemble to this one female. It looks as if I am going to experience another troublesome year with my show Chrysanthemums. During 1998-99 I had a few moths of this species in my trap practically every suitable night of each month of the year, including December. – D.G. DOWN, Aegeria, 16 Woodend Close, Thundersley, Essex SS7 3YA.